

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants have previously elected Claims 1-6 and 8-15 for further prosecution in the present application. In the present Office Action, Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claims 1-2, 8-12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Kami; and Claims 3-6 and 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kami. Claims 1-4, and 15 have been canceled, without prejudice, and thus, Claims 5, 6 and 10-14 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is to be noted that such claim has now been canceled, without prejudice.

Considering first then the Examiner's rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is again noted that Claim 15 has now been cancelled.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1-2, 8-12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kami and the rejection of Claims 3-6 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kami, it is noted that Claims 1-4 have now been canceled while Claims 5 and 6 have been placed in independent form. In this regard, Claim 5 claims that the rib portions are fracturable so that the tank is moved with respect to the vehicle when the tank is impacted while Claim 6 indicates that the thin plane portions are fracturable so that the tank is movable with respect to the vehicle when the tank is impacted. By comparison, the notch and thin plate cited by the Examiner in Figure 5 of Kami are not formed in a flange of an attaching portion as claimed and clearly do not suggest any thin plane portion formed in a flange so as to reduce a thickness portion of the flange of the first attaching portion and which is fracturable or suggest any rib portions which are fracturable,

as presently claimed. Instead, the thin plane referred to by the Examiner in Figure 5 of Kami is actually a washer member that helps secure the nut 11 in place with respect to the rib. In addition, the notch referred to by the Examiner is actually only a bent portion of the flange which helps secure rubber block 10 in place. Insofar as the above-noted claimed structure of the present invention serves to better serve as a shock absorber for a force acting on the reservoir as explained at page 5, lines 18-25, it is submitted that Claims 5 and 6 as now amended clearly patentably define over Kami as well as the remaining references of record.

Applicants further note that limitations similar to those mentioned above with regard to Claim 1 have also been added to independent Claims 10, 11 and 12. It is therefore submitted that such independent claims also merit indication of allowability along with the claims dependent therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, and in view of the fact that the limitations now added to the independent claims correspond to limitations pending in the application prior to the final rejection, it is submitted that entry of this amendment after final rejection is merited and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

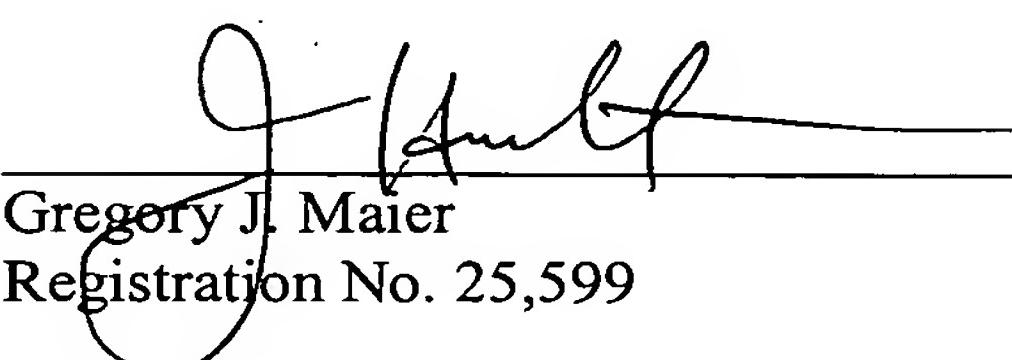
Respectfully submitted,

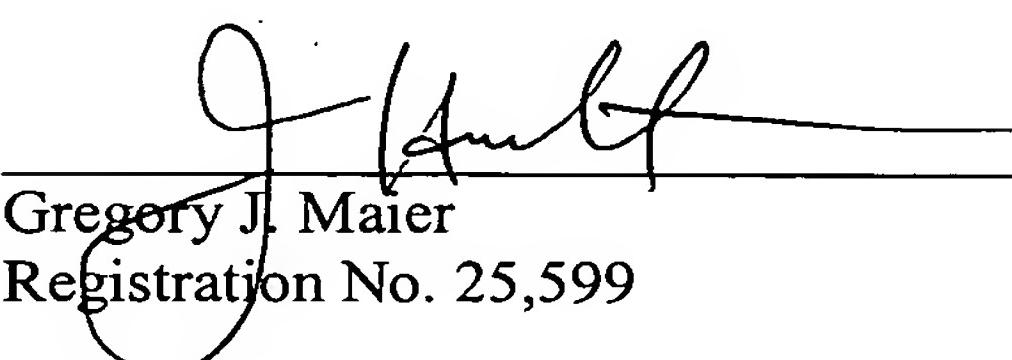
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